

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/686,618	INOUE, YOSHIAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Madeleine AV Nguyen	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to amendment filed on November 06, 2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28.
3.  The drawings filed on 06 November 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All      b)  Some\*      c)  None      of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

This communication is responsive to amendment filed on November 6, 2004.

Applicant amends the specification, Fig. 8, and adds new claims 15-28.

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 11-15, filed on November 06, 2004, with respect to claims 1-14 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-14 has been withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-28 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-28 are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of the said prior art which teaches an apparatus and method for outputting an image by generating at least one of a print, a print proof, a printing plate, and a plate-making film directly from image data including at least one color element comprising means for or steps of preparing a plurality of gradation conversion curves whose gradation characteristics are different stepwise from each other, converting gradations of a supplied image data according to a selected gradation conversion curve and outputting image data represented by the image data with the corrected gradations.

Fujisawa (US Patent No. 6,384,932) fails to teach that the gradation curves are stepwise different (corresponding to exposure levels such as 3<sup>rd</sup> step blank, 5<sup>th</sup> step black, 7<sup>th</sup> step blank, etc.) from each other (see Fig. 6 of the application).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
  - a. Yoshino et al (US Patent No. 5,574,544) discloses an image forming apparatus having image density gradation correction means and gradation correction curve forming device in which a gradation correction curve is made from reflection density data of the patch toner image.
  - b. Daels et al (US Patent No. 5,903,713) teaches a halftone screen is presented for use in combination with reproduction devices that are capable of rendering more than two tone levels.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Madeleine AV Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272-7466. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on 571 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Madeleine AV Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2626

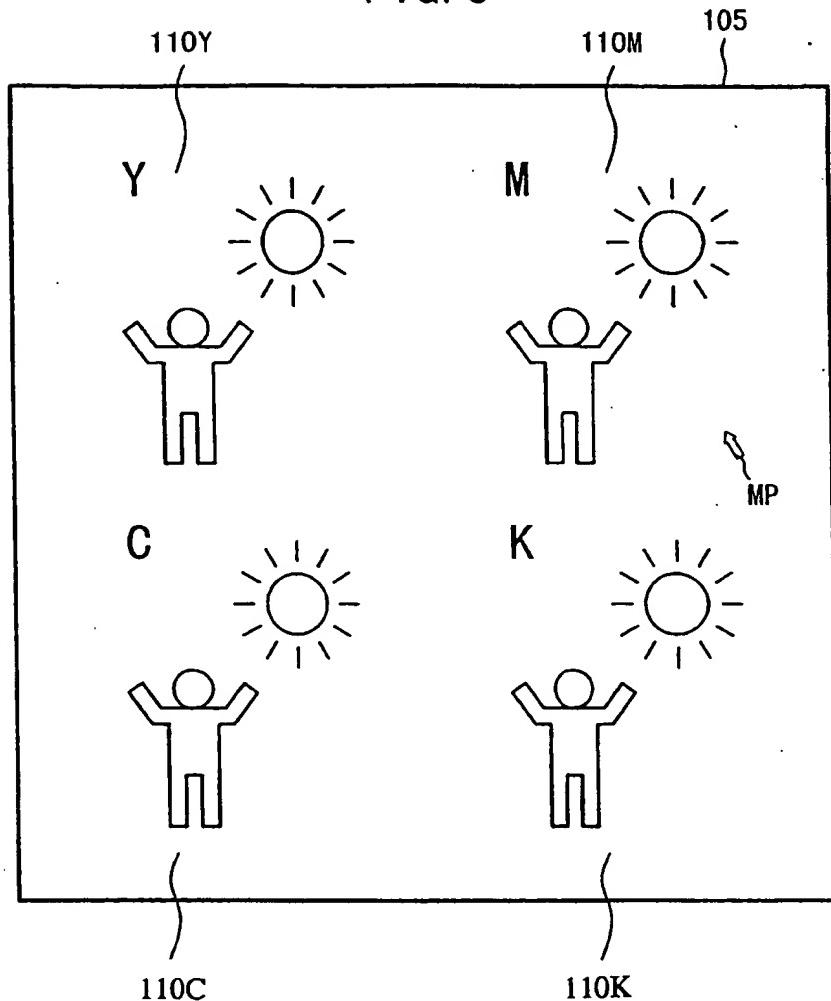
May 20, 2005



8/14

Appl. No. 09/686,618  
Docket No. Q58056  
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2004  
Reply to Office action of June 16, 2004  
Replacement Sheet 8 (Fig. 8)

FIG. 8



Approved  
a)

5/19/05